

Appl. No. 10/807,164
Amendment Dated: June 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 18, 2005

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, and 17-21 are pending in the application, with 1, 7 and 13 being the independent claims. Claims 5, 14 and 16 are cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13 and 17 are currently amended. The amendments are made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter of the previous claims. The Applicant submits that the amendments do not add new subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 16 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 5 which places claim 1 in condition for allowance. The Applicant has also amended claim 7 to incorporate all limitations of its base and intervening claims and amended claim 13 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 16 and intervening claim 14. Accordingly, claims 7 and 13 are also in condition for allowance.

All other pending claims depend from either claim 1, claim 7 or claim 13 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Objection to the Claims

Original claims 8 and 14 are objected to as containing the following informalities:

a. Claim 8 recites "the length", which was objected to for lacking antecedent basis. Without admitting that the claim was indefinite as previously worded, these words have been deleted. The Applicant submits that the deleted words are not necessary for a person skilled in the art to understand the claim.

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b. Claim 14 recites "to compress the fork yoke and handlebar stem so as to create a frictional connection between them". The Office Action suggested to remove the words "between them". Without admitting that the language of claim 14 was indefinite, Applicant has amended claim 13, which now incorporates the cited language of claim 14, to remove the words "between them".

Claim Rejections

Various claims were rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of various cited references. The Applicant does not admit that any of the claims were anticipated or obvious. However, in view of the amendments and comments above, the Applicant believes that the rejections for anticipation and obviousness no longer apply and so do not require comment at this time.

For the reasons above, the Applicant submits that the claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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